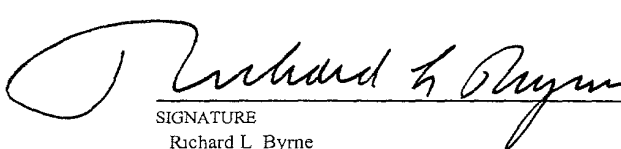


Form PTO-1390 (REV 10-95)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 702-001869
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371			U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5) 09/720770
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO PCT/NL00/00902	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 06.12.00 (December 6, 2000)	PRIORITY DATES CLAIMED 06.12.99 (December 6, 1999)	
TITLE OF INVENTION METHOD FOR ELECTRONIC ADDRESSING OF A PERSON OR ORGANISATION			
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Anthony J. L. DE BREED			
<p>Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information</p> <p>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</p> <p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</p> <p>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1)</p> <p>4. <input type="checkbox"/> A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.</p> <p>5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))</p> <p> a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau)</p> <p> b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been transmitted by the International Bureau</p> <p> c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US)</p> <p>6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).</p> <p>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))</p> <p> a. <input type="checkbox"/> are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau)</p> <p> b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been transmitted by the International Bureau.</p> <p> c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made, however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.</p> <p> d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made</p> <p>8. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))</p> <p>9. <input type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4))</p> <p>10. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).</p> <p>Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:</p> <p>11. <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98</p> <p>12. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included</p> <p>13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment.</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment</p> <p>14. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification.</p> <p>15. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter</p> <p>16. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information:</p> <p> a. Form PCT/RO/101 (3 pp.)</p> <p> b. Form PCT/RO/101 (Annex) (1 p.)</p>			

U.S. APPLICATION NO. 09/720770 <small>(If known, see 37 CFR 1.53)</small>		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO PCT/NL00/00902		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 702-001869	
17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)): Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO \$860.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) \$690.00 No international preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but international search fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) \$710.00 Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$1000.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(2)-(4) \$100.00				CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY	
ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =				\$ 860.00	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).				\$ 0.00	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE		
Total claims	26 - 20	6	X \$18.00	\$ 108.00	
Independent claims	2 - 3 =	0	X \$80.00	\$ 0.00	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ \$270.00	\$ 0.00	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$ 968.00	
Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entry, if applicable. Small Entry Statement verified by Applicant(s) attorney				\$ 0.00	
SUBTOTAL =				\$ 968.00	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).				\$ 0.00	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$ 968.00	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)) The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31) \$40.00 per property				\$ 0.00	
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$ 968.00	
				Amount to be: refunded	\$
				charged	\$
a. <input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$_____ to cover the above fees is enclosed. b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No <u>23-0650</u> in the amount of \$ <u>968.00</u> to cover the above fees A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No <u>23-0650</u> A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status. SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: Richard L. Byrne 700 Koppers Building 436 Seventh Avenue Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219-1818 Telephone: (412) 471-8815 Facsimile: (412) 471-4094					
				SIGNATURE  Richard L. Byrne NAME 28,498 REGISTRATION NUMBER	

JC03 Rec'd PCT/PTO 29 DEC 2000

PATENT APPLICATION/PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

Anthony J. L. DE BREED

702-001869

PCT/NL00/00902

ENTITLED

METHOD FOR ELECTRONIC ADDRESSING OF A PERSON OR ORGANISATION

TO BOX PCT

Attention: DO/EO/US

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

"Express Mail" Label Number **EL561553602US**

Date of Deposit December 29, 2000

I hereby certify that the following attached paper or fee

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A
FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371 (original and two (2) copies)
LETTER RECOGNIZING ATTORNEYS (2 pp.);
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT;
ENGLISH-LANGUAGE TRANSLATION OF SPECIFICATION
CLAIMS AND DRAWINGS (27 pp.);
DUTCH LANGUAGE APPLICATION INCLUDING
FORMS PCT/RO/101 AND PCT/RO/101 (ANNEX) (32 pp.)**

is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

K.T. Berthold

(Typed name of person mailing paper or fee)

KT Berthold

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09/7207707-2901
526 Rec'd PCT/PTO 29 DEC 2000 M.L.

PATENT APPLICATION/PCT
Attorney Docket No. 702-001869

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :
Anthony J. L. DE BREED : **METHOD FOR ELECTRONIC**
 : **ADDRESSING OF A PERSON OR**
International Application : **ORGANISATION**
No. PCT/NL00/00902 :
International Filing Date :
06 December 2000 :
Priority Date Claimed :
06 December 1999 :
Serial No. Not Yet Assigned :
Filed Concurrently Herewith :

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
December 29, 2000

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX PCT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified patent application
as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, after the title, insert the following heading :

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

Page 1, line 19, delete "the European patent EP A 0823809" and substitute
therefor --United States Patent No. 6,065,016--.

Page 1, after line 24, insert the following heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 1, line 33, delete "which are addressed according to the".

Page 1, line 34, delete "method of claim 1 to one or more recipients" and substitute therefor --wherein the addresses of people and/or organisations are stored in a database, and wherein the addresses from the database are linked to publicly accessible data such as name, telephone numbers, fax number and/or postal codes--.

Page 7, line 20, delete "European" and substitute therefor --United States--.

Page 7, after line 28, insert the following heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

Page 8, after line 4, insert the following heading:

--DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-29 and rewrite them as new claims 30-55 as follows:

--30. A method for addressing a person or organisation via electronic means, wherein the addresses of people and/or organisations are stored in a database, and wherein the addresses from the database are linked to publicly accessible data such as name, telephone numbers, fax number and/or postal codes.

31. A method for processing and/or sending in electronic manner one or more e-mail messages which are addressed according to the method of claim 30 to one or more recipients.

32. The method as claimed in claim 31, further comprising one or more steps for inputting message data comprising at least one or more items of the publicly accessible data.

33. The method as claimed in claim 32, comprising one or more steps for inputting further message data such as advance notice data and/or subject data, content data, parameter data such as for instance period of validity data and/or areas of interest data.

34. The method as claimed in claim 31, further comprising one or more steps for filtering the e-mail messages.

35. The method as claimed in claim 34, wherein the filtering step comprises one or more steps for checking for the presence of viruses in the e-mail messages and optional removal thereof from the e-mail messages.

36. The method as claimed in claim 34, further comprising steps for checking on transmission permission of the sender.

37. The method as claimed in claim 34, further comprising one or more steps for preventing and/or delaying spam messages.

38. The method as claimed in claim 32, further comprising steps for:
automatically retrieving an e-mail address in the addressing data; and
sending at least a part of the message to the e-mail address if this is permissible
on the basis of the results of the filtering steps.

39. The method as claimed in claim 31, further comprising steps for sending
status messages relating to the message to the sender.

40. The method as claimed in claim 31, further comprising steps for assisting
in a manual search for an addressee in the database.

41. The method as claimed in claim 37, further comprising steps for retrieving
the addressee on the basis of one or more of a telephone number, a postal address or a name.

42. The method as claimed in claim 38, further comprising steps for:
automatically retrieving an e-mail address by searching according to telephone
number;

automatically retrieving an e-mail address by searching according to address; and

5 automatically retrieving an e-mail address by searching according to another
protocol, such as a social security number, DUNS, Chamber of Commerce number or VAT
number.

43. The method as claimed in claim 30, further provided with a step for registering users by means of user profiles so that they can be addressed using the method.

44. The method as claimed in claim 43, further comprising a step for adding an exclusion list to the user profile whereby the user can determine from whom no messages may be passed on to him.

45. The method as claimed in claim 43, comprising a step for adding one or more of a list of friends/contacts or a commercial/private indication to the user profile.

46. The method as claimed in claim 30, further comprising a step for writing to an addressee who is not a registered user of the method.

47. The method as claimed in claim 30, which is provided with steps for ringing an addressee who is not a registered user of the method.

48. The method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the web page of a person or organisation is addressed electronically.

49. The method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the messages are addressed with the e-mail address of the recipient in a manner not visible to the sender.

50. The method as claimed in claim 30, wherein name and/or telephone number form part of the address.

51. The method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the database forms part of an internet site.

A2
Claim
52. The method as claimed in claim 30, further comprising steps for searching for messages on the basis of advance notice data and/or subject data, content data, parameter data such as for instance period of validity data and/or areas of interest data.

53. The method as claimed in claim 30, further comprising steps for deleting messages which have for instance been superseded by a new version or of which the period of validity has elapsed.

54. The method as claimed in claim 30, wherein steps are further provided for securing and/or encoding the message traffic.

55. The method as claimed in claim 30, wherein steps are provided for performing matters with high security requirements, such as identification/authentication, for instance for the purpose of financial transactions such as payments, on the basis of the security and/or encoding.--

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Page 21, line 1, delete "The present invention comprises" and substitute therefor
--Disclosed is--.

Page 21, line 8, delete "which are addressed".

Page 21, delete lines 9-10 in their entirety and substitute therefor wherein the
addresses of people and/or organisations are stored in a database, and wherein the addresses from
the database are linked to publicly accessible data such as name, telephone numbers, fax number
and/or postal codes.

REMARKS

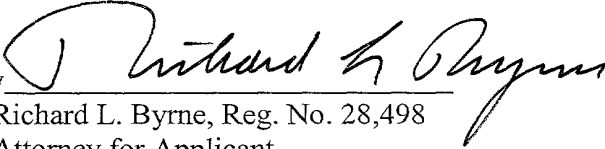
The specification has been amended to place it into conformance with standard
United States Patent practice.

Claims 1-29 have been canceled by this Preliminary Amendment and rewritten
as new claims 30-55 to eliminate the multiple dependencies and to bring the claims into
conformance with standard United States Patent practice.

Entry of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

WEBB ZIESENHEIM LOGSDON
ORKIN & HANSON, P.C.

By 
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METHOD FOR ELECTRONIC ADDRESSING
OF A PERSON OR ORGANISATION

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

In the case of both organisations and private individuals electronic message traffic continues to expand considerably. A growing number of private individuals also have one or more e-mail addresses, while a personal web page is also within reach of many private individuals.

If however it is wished to send an e-mail to a random third party, it is difficult at the moment to find out the e-mail address of this person. In contrast to normal addresses, e-mail addresses are not linked in logical and traceable manner to a private individual or organisation.

Known from United States Patent No. 6,065,016 ~~the European patent EP A 0823809~~ is a directory service which enables a user to obtain communication addresses of individuals from a recent analysed location or database. This is a professional system for internal use or simultaneous use by a number of companies.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION
The present invention provides a method for addressing a person or organisation via electronic means, wherein the addresses of people and/or organisations are stored in a database, wherein the addresses from the database are linked to publicly accessible data such as name, telephone numbers, fax number and/or postal codes.

A preferred embodiment of the method for processing and/or sending one or more e-mail messages in electronic manner, ~~which are addressed according to the method of claim 1 to one or more recipients.~~

A further preferred embodiment of the method further comprises one or more steps for inputting message data comprising at least one or more items of the publicly accessible data.

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5 in which all publicly known data of private individuals
and/or organisations is stored, anyone who so wishes can
link his e-mail address thereto in a manner which is
visible or invisible to the sender of a message. The e-
mail address can also comprise the fax number, the mobile
10 telephone number for a telephone with e-mail options,
postal address including postal code or the physical
address with postal code, and the like. A link can also
be made to a web page or web site from which further data
can be inferred.

15 A further preferred embodiment of the method comprises one or more steps for inputting further message data such as advance notice data and/or subject data, content data, parameter data, such as for instance period of validity data and/or areas of interest data. An
20 advantage hereof is that possible recipients of the message do not have to receive the whole message but only the advance notice data which includes among other things the subject data, content data, parameter data such as for instance period of validity data and/or areas of
25 interest data. If the recipient is interested he can then download the whole message. If he concludes on the basis of this information that he has no interest, the message does not have to be downloaded, thus saving data traffic and time. Another advantage hereof is that people who
30 receive messages according to this method can indicate whether they are interested in particular matters and if they wish to receive messages about these or not. People will experience a much lower threshold in participating in addressing on the basis of publicly accessible data if
35 they can indicate in advance which information they do or do not wish to receive. More will be said about this later in this document. This embodiment provides for the indication of parameters in the message to be sent which

may be helpful in determining this type of areas of interest. These parameters can further indicate for how long and when the message is valid. The possible recipient can then already see from the advance notice in the message when the validity expires and it must thus be read.

A further embodiment of the method comprises one or more steps for filtering the e-mail messages. The above stated areas of interest are for instance criteria according to which filtering can take place. The type of sender is another criterion for filtering information.

A further refinement of the method provides filtering for the purpose of checking for the presence of viruses in the e-mail messages and optional removal thereof from the e-mail messages. That messages contain viruses is one reason for recipients not to wish to automatically receive unexpected messages from strangers via an addressing system on the basis of publicly accessible data. A functionality is therefore provided to prevent the potential presence of viruses. This has the advantage that potential recipients will be more readily inclined to participate in an addressing system based on publicly accessible data.

Further embodiments of the method comprise steps for checking on transmission permission of the sender and for preventing or delaying spam messages.

These additional steps have the advantage that acceptance of the method by message recipients is increased.

Further embodiments of the method comprise further steps for:

- automatically retrieving an e-mail address in the addressing data,
- sending at least a part of the message to the e-mail address if this is permissible on the basis of the results of the filtering steps. These steps relate to actual addressing of an e-mail message which has been

One embodiment comprises steps for assisting in a manual search for an addressee in the database. If a sender wishes to send a message, using these steps he can retrieve data relating to a recipient step by step. An embodiment comprises steps for retrieving the addressee on the basis of a telephone number, a postal address and/or a name.

An embodiment comprises further steps for
25 sending status messages relating to the message to the
sender, so that the sender receives information as to
whether his message has been read or refused by the
recipient.

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a user himself has more options for addressing desired groups.

An embodiment comprises steps for adding a commercial/private indication to the user profile. This
5 has the advantage that the method can for instance determine what the transmission permission of the sender are.

An embodiment comprises a step of writing to an addressee who is not a registered user of the method. The
10 method also comprises steps for ringing an addressee who is not a registered user of the method. This has the advantage that a recipient can become aware of the fact that a message has been sent to him, even if he is not yet a participant in the system.

15 In a further embodiment of the method the database forms part of an internet site.

In a further embodiment steps are provided for retrieving messages on the basis of advance notice data, subject data, content data and/or the parameter data such
20 as for instance period of validity data and/or areas of interest data. An advantage of this embodiment is that recipients can retrieve messages which are not addressed to them. A further advantage is that the distribution of the message becomes free of charge, which is advantageous
25 for the sender. The people who are searching within this method specifically for current information on the web site can also search in the messages which are to be found thereon, because period of validity data have for instance been added.

30 In a further preferred embodiment steps are further provided for securing and/or encoding the message traffic. Steps are further provided for securing and/or encoding matters with high security requirements, such as authentication/identification for the purpose of enabling
35 financial transactions such as payments and/or user options such as for instance electronic voting.

The advantages hereof are that all recipients of messages/users of the web site can be provided with

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unique secret keys and the option of sending messages/information in encoded manner with keys in a manner such that only an authenticated recipient can read the messages. Because a sender is also identified, 5 confidential applications can, as further advantage, make use of the possibilities of the web site, such as settling financial transactions or electronic voting.

In one embodiment there is provided in a computer or a number of mutually coupled computers, 10 memory space for storing the database and software for performing the method. This enables a highly automated embodiment of the method.

The following may serve as example. If the internet site where all publicly accessible data is known 15 is called "addressdirectory or phonebook", an e-mail, once it has been composed, can be addressed to Mr. Jansen at Baronielaan 186, 4521 BZ Breda, who has for instance the Dutch telephone number 076 - 56 54 321, as follows: 0031765654321@phonebook.nl or jansen.baronielaan186. 20 breda@addressdirectory.nl (or more briefly 186.4521BZ@addressdirectory.nl.

Depending on the possibilities of the internet site "phonebook or addressdirectory" and the wishes of Mr. Jansen, the message will be sent automatically if a 25 link has been made by Mr. Jansen to his publicly accessible data on the internet site "phonebook or address directory"

It is also conceivable for a screen to be displayed to the user which shows that Mr. Jansen has not 30 made an e-mail address known to this site or that there are a number of family members with the name Jansen, with the respective names and/or addresses.

It is further possible to envisage the private web page of Mr. Jansen being displayed to the user, on 35 which can be shown further options for sending an e-mail. The following addressing can be used by way of example: www.0031765654321.phonebook.nl and, if there are a number of occupants, this can be addressed more specifically by

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adding "jansen" between www.00 and phonebook:
www.jansen0031765654321.phonebook.nl.

It will be apparent that the internet site address directory can also be consulted in order to see
5 which Mr. Jansen (in Breda) must be addressed, for instance by looking at the perhaps known physical or postal address of Mr. Jansen, from which his telephone number, postal code, fax number and the like can be derived, which can then be used as address in the above
10 stated sense.

The present invention has further advantages if users wish to approach a large number of people and/or business contacts, as in so-called direct mailing. By for instance selecting on the basis of postal code 4837 or
15 the telephone area code 76, a large number of people in the Breda area can be mailed, with possible further division using postal codes, street or district.

The present invention can perhaps be technically implemented on a computer such as also known
20 from the above stated ^{United States} European patent.

It is further conceivable that a separate category will become available on internet for the data, such as Jansen1864837be.nl.address or 003176564321.tel or 076565431.nl.

25 The present invention is not limited to the above stated example; the rights sought are defined by the following claims, within the scope of which many modifications can be envisaged.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS.
Further advantages, features and details of the
30 present invention will become apparent on reading of the following description of a preferred embodiment with reference to the annexed figures, wherein:

Fig. 1 shows a flow diagram of a part of a method of an embodiment;

35 Fig. 2 shows a continuation of the method of the embodiment of fig. 1;

Fig. 3 shows a flow diagram of an embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 4 shows another embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 5 shows another embodiment of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

5 It is an object of the present invention to make it possible to send an e-mail to a person without knowing what his or her e-mail address is, or to find the digital domain and to then send an e-mail. For this purpose (fig. 1) a sender can go to a web site on which
10 implementation of this method is possible. In this embodiment a message consists of four parts. The first part is the advance notice. The advance notice is that part of the message which, on the basis of the address (see further), is immediately redirected to the
15 recipient. A purpose of this advance notice is that lengthy messages and/or messages to many recipients need only be sent to the addressee if he, on the basis of the advance notice, wishes to read them. The addressee receives an advance notice and determines on the basis of
20 this advance notice whether the rest of the message must be redirected to him. The second part of the message in this embodiment is the message itself, which can optionally be supplemented with other content such as image, sound and the like. If desired, this part of the
25 message is not redirected to the addressee, but only if this latter is interested in it. This message is then stored for instance on a server of the web site with which this method is performed. The third component of the message is the addressing. The e-mail address does
30 not have to be filled in here. It is possible to suffice with generally available data, such as for instance a telephone number or a postal code with house number. A fourth part of the message in this embodiment consists of parameters indicating a period of validity of the
35 message, channels, options for interim changes to the message and the like. Channels are for instance areas of interest of a recipient.

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Inputting of the recipients in step 2 can optionally take place using a search assistant as shown in fig. 4.

A check is made in step 4 whether the message is directed to a recipient or to a group of recipients. In the case the message is addressed to one recipient, the operation is continued in step 10. If the message is addressed to a plurality of recipients, a number of interim steps are first performed in step 6 and step 8.

10 A check is made in step 6 whether the sender is authorized by the web site to send to a plurality of addressees. If this is so, the message, or in fact the messages, are sent. If this is not the case, a spam delay step comes into operation in 8. This means that a maximum
15 of one e-mail is sent in a predetermined period of time. From the steps 4, 6 and 8 all sent messages arrive in step 10 where a check is made for viruses. If it is determined in 12 that a virus has been found, an attempt is made in 14 to remove the virus. If it is determined in
20 16 that the virus has been removed, a message is sent to the sender that his message contained a virus and the message is allowed through to step 24. If it is determined in 16 that the virus has not been removed, the message is destroyed in 18. A message is then sent to the
25 sender in 20 that his message could not be sent because of a virus. From 12 and 22 it is possible to arrive in 24, which shows that the message is a sendable message.

Sendable messages of figure 1 are further processed in figure 2. The messages which have been
30 determined sendable messages by the method of figure 1 still have to be sent. Since the messages are not addressed to an existing e-mail address, it is necessary to determine to which e-mail address they have to be sent. A first step here is step 26. A check is made in
35 step 26 as to whether the address entered in step 2 resembles a telephone number. If this is so, it is determined in step 36 whether this telephone number is also of a registered user of the system. If it is found

in 26 not to be a telephone number, it is determined in step 28 whether the dispatch address resembles a normal postal address. If this is so, it is determined in 36 whether it is a postal address of a registered user. If 5 this is not so, a check is made in step 30 whether the address can be converted to a protocol, number, type of address (such as social security number, ICQ number, Chamber of Commerce registration number, DUNS code and the like). If an identification is thus recognized, a 10 check is made in 36 whether this is associated with a registered user of the system. If it is found in 30 that it is an unrecognizable address, a search assistant (see figure 4) is started when the sender inputs the message online. The operation of this search assistant is 15 described in figure 4. If it is found in 34 that the addressee has been retrieved, a check is made in 36 whether this belongs to a registered user of the system. If no identification is found in 34, the message is bounced in 52. If it is found in 36 that the addressee is 20 a registered user of the system, a check is then made in 48 whether this user wishes to receive the type of mail which is being sent here. If this is the case, the message is passed on to the addressee in 50.

If it is found in 36 that the addressee is not 25 a registered user of the system, the addressee is then rung in 38 and informed that the message is being sent to him making use of this system. It will then be apparent in 40 whether contact is made with the addressee. If this is so, the user can register in 46. The manner in which 30 this takes place is shown in figure 5. If this does not take place, the message is bounced in 52 and, if it does take place, a check is made in 48 whether the profile of the user allows a message to be passed on in 50 in a manner similar to a message which arrived directly in 48 35 from 36. If in 41 no contact can be made with the addressee, a letter is sent to the addressee in 42 with the information that a message has been sent to him via this system. In 44 the addressee makes contact with the

system and registers as user in 46, wherein the message runs through the same steps as took place via 48 and 50 or via 40 and 36. If in 44 the addressee does not make contact with the system, the message will bounce. If the
 5 user does not wish to register in 46, the message will also bounce.

In step 50 of figure 2 the message is passed on to the addressee at his e-mail address, and he receives the advance notice and data concerning the sender. This
 10 means that the recipient does not get to read the whole message. The recipient does however get to see possible parameters relating to the period in which the message can be retrieved. In step 56 is determined whether the advance notice is received by the addressee, and if it
 15 has not been received a status message goes to the sender in 60, and if the advance notice is received a check is made as to whether the message is also read. The addressee himself determines whether he reads the message on the basis of the advance notice. When the message is
 20 read a status message goes to the sender and, if the message is not read within the set time, this is also notified to the sender by means of a status report.

Interesting results can be selectively monitored from the transmission and receipt data. Receipt
 25 data can herein be subdivided, such as for instance how often the advance notice and the actual message is read, for how long it is read and/or which part received the most attention.

If problems occur in retrieving the addressee,
 30 use can be made of a search assistant (fig. 4). The search assistant begins in 62 with an opening screen. The system enquires of the sender whether the telephone number of the subscriber is known. If this is known, the system will display a menu with for instance the country,
 35 area code and subscriber number. A person can be identified by filling this in. It will then be determined in 76 on the basis of the result whether the correct person has been found. If this is the case, the search

assistant is closed in 78 with the message that the e-mail address has been retrieved. If the correct person is not found, an enquiry will be made in 80 as to whether the search must be continued. If this is not so, the search assistant will be closed in 82 with the notification that the message cannot be sent. If it is necessary to search further, the search assistant will go back to the start in 62. If it should be found in 64 that a telephone number is not known, the program continues by enquiring in 68 whether another address is known at which the recipient could be reached. If this is the case, a menu is shown with for instance the country, the place or the street and the house number of the recipient. If it should prove to be the case on the basis hereof that the person can be found in 76, either the search assistant is closed again in 78 or searching is continued in 80. If it is found in 68 that no address of the recipient is known, an enquiry is made in 72 as to whether the name is known. If the name is known, a menu is shown with names, initials and other known data in 74. It is then determined once again in 76 whether the person has been found and, if so, the search assistant is closed in 78 and, if not, a request is made as to whether the search can continue in 80. Notification can then optionally be made that there are no further search options and searching is ended in 82 with the notification that the message cannot be sent. If it is found in 72 that the name of the recipient is not known, searching is also ended in 82 with the notification that the message cannot be sent. Using the search assistant of figure 4 it is of course also possible to search in other sequences than per se via telephone number, address or name.

In figure 5 are shown steps with which a new user can sign up for the system and can enter diverse data on the basis of which he can be found. In 84 the user registers a name and a password. He also makes a link with one or more directories with data already known about him. This may be a public telephone directory or

the like. The user can also input additional data, select what types of information he does or does not wish to receive via this system, and so on. In step 86 a user can exclude persons from whom he does not wish to receive 5 messages via this system; if he desires this, he can build up a list in 88 of persons or groups of senders to be excluded, using a search menu. A user can also make a directory of friends/contacts in 90. If he wishes, he can make a list of friends/contacts in 92, optionally using a 10 search menu. This search menu can for instance be the search assistant of figure 4. Finally, the system which performs the method can enquire in 94 whether the user wishes to use the system privately or commercially. If it is a private user, this registration will take place in 15 96. If the user wishes to make commercial use of the system, this takes place in 98.

Figure 6 shows how, using the further message data such as advance notice data and/or subject data, content data, parameter data such as for instance period 20 of validity data and/or areas of interest data, messages can be allotted to channels. In 100 a message is sent via a channel chosen on the basis of this data. This is useful because a wide diversity of types of message is possible on the basis of this data. By means of step 48 25 in figure 2 it is possible, on the basis of profiles of recipients, to allow recipients to determine what types of e-mail messages are accepted. These channels enable senders to determine via which channels messages are sent. A distinction is made here between general channels 30 102, which apply for all recipients who make use of this system, and more specific channels 106 which are suitable for more specific groups of recipients. Examples of channels include private mail, advertising, legal mail, central government mail, local government mail, 35 nationwide advertising, local advertising, neighbourhood (residents), areas of interest etc. These channels can be subdivided into underlying subjects, such as for instance

public information, election information, statutory orders and so on.

A mailing, i.e. a large number of substantially the same messages sent to many recipients, is sent within 5 a channel. In 104 the message arrives at the recipient in the relevant general channel. Messages sent to a specific channel arrive at the user in 108 if the recipient has this relevant channel available. If the message is directed to a recipient who does not have this specific 10 channel available, the message arrives in a non-defined channel in 110.

The message is also stored such that by means of the stated search functionality of the web site it can be emphasized for all recipients of the web site if the 15 sender indicates this.

A further channel, billings, can make use of the said encoding/authentication functionality. Bills are then received in this channel which can be paid by return of mail using this functionality. Authenticated senders 20 can also direct their bills to the recipients via this channel.

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List of figure numerals

- 2. Input of advance notice
- Input of message
- 10 Input recipient (optionally using search assistant,
figure 4)
- Input (period of validity) parameters
- 4. A recipient
- 6. Authorization
- 15 8. Spam delay
- 10. Check for viruses
- 12. Virus found
- 14. Clear out virus
- 16. Virus removed
- 20 18. Delete message
- 20. Notification to sender that message was unsendable
due to virus
- 22. Notification to sender that message contains virus
- 24. Send message (see figure 2)
- 25 26. Resembles telephone
- 28. Resembles address
- 30. Resembles other protocol
- 32. Start search assistant (figure 4)
- 34. Found
- 30 36. Register user
- 38. Ring addressee with notification that a message is
being sent to him
- 40. Contact
- Letter to addressee with notification that a message is
being sent to him
- 35 44. Contact
- 46. Registers user (Figure 5)
- 48. Profile allows message
- 50. Pass message on (figure 3)

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- 52. Bounce
- 54. Sent message (from figure 2)
- 56. Advance notice received
- 58. Message read
- 5 60. Status message to sender
- 62. Start search-assistant (of figure 1 or 2)
- 64. Telephone number known
- 66. Menu with: country, area code, subscriber number
- 68. Address known
- 10 70. Menu with: country, place, street/house
- 72. Name known
- 74. Menu with: names, initials, other known data
- 76. Found
- 78. Address retrieved, close search-assistant
- 15 80. Continue search
- 82. Recipient unidentifiable
- 84. User registers user name/password, makes link to public telephone directory, inputs additional data, selects channels, uses search-assistant
- 20 86. Exclude persons
- 88. Build up list of persons/groups of senders to be excluded, uses search-assistant
- 90. Make friends/contacts
- 92. Make list with friends/contacts, use search-assistant
- 25 94. Check: private or commercial
- 96. Registration private user completed
- 98. Registration commercial user completed
- 100. Send message
- 30 102. General channels
- 104. Receiving by recipient via general channel
- 106. Specific channels
- 108. Receiving by recipient via specific channel
- 110. Receiving by recipient via not-defined channel

CLAIMS

1. Method for addressing a person or organisation via electronic means, wherein the addresses of people and/or organisations are stored in a database, wherein the addresses from the database are linked to
s publicly accessible data such as name, telephone numbers, fax number and/or postal codes.

2. Method for processing and/or sending in electronic manner one or more e-mail messages which are addressed according to the method of claim 1 to one or
10 more recipients.

3. Method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising one or more steps for inputting message data comprising at least one or more items of the publicly accessible data.

15 4. Method as claimed in claim 3, comprising one or more steps for inputting further message data such as advance notice data and/or subject data, content data, parameter data such as for instance period of validity data and/or areas of interest data.

20 5. Method as claimed in claims 2-4, further comprising one or more steps for filtering the e-mail messages.

25 6. Method as claimed in claim 5, wherein filtering comprises one or more steps for checking for the presence of viruses in the e-mail messages and optional removal thereof from the e-mail messages.

7. Method as claimed in claim 5 and/or 6, further comprising steps for checking on transmission permission of the sender.

30 8. Method as claimed in claims 5-7, further comprising one or more steps for preventing or delaying spam messages.

9. Method as claimed in one or more of the claims 3-7, further comprising steps for:

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- automatically retrieving an e-mail address in the addressing data,

- sending at least a part of the message to the e-mail address if this is permissible on the basis of the results of the filtering steps.

10. Method as claimed in one or more of the claims 2-6, further comprising steps for sending status messages relating to the message to the sender.

11. Method as claimed in one or more of the claims 2-7, further comprising steps for assisting in a manual search for an addressee in the database.

12. Method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising steps for retrieving the addressee on the basis of a telephone number.

13. Method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising steps for retrieving the addressee on the basis of a postal address.

14. Method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising steps for retrieving the addressee on the basis of a name.

14a. Method as claimed in claim 9, further comprising steps for:

- automatically retrieving an e-mail address by searching according to telephone number,

- automatically retrieving an e-mail address by searching according to address,

- automatically retrieving an e-mail address by searching according to another protocol, such as a social security number, DUNS, Chamber of Commerce number or VAT number.

15. Method as claimed in one or more of the foregoing claims, further provided with a step for registering users by means of user profiles so that they can be addressed using the method.

16. Method as claimed in claim 15, further comprising a step for adding an exclusion list to the

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user profile whereby the user can determine from whom no messages may be passed on to him.

17. Method as claimed in claim 15 or 16, comprising a step for adding a list of friends/contacts
5 to the user profile.

18. Method as claimed in claim 15 or 16, comprising a step for adding a commercial/private indication to the user profile.

19. Method as claimed in one or more of the
10 foregoing claims, further comprising a step for writing to an addressee who is not a registered user of the method.

20. Method as claimed in one or more of the foregoing claims, which is provided with steps for
15 ringing an addressee who is not a registered user of the method.

21. Method as claimed in one or more of the foregoing claims, wherein the web page of a person or organisation is addressed electronically.

22. Method as claimed in one or more of the
20 foregoing claims, wherein the messages are addressed with the e-mail address of the recipient in a manner not visible to the sender.

23. Method as claimed in one or more of the
25 foregoing claims, wherein name and/or telephone number form part of the address.

24. Method as claimed in one or more of the foregoing claims, wherein the database forms part of an internet site.

25. Method as claimed in one or more of the
30 foregoing claims, further comprising steps for searching for messages on the basis of the data of claim 4.

26. Method as claimed in one or more of the foregoing claims, further comprising steps for deleting
35 messages which have for instance been superseded by a new version or of which the period of validity has elapsed.

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27. Method as claimed in one or more of the foregoing claims, wherein steps are further provided for securing and/or encoding the message traffic.

28. Method as claimed in claim 28, wherein
s steps are provided for performing matters with high security requirements, such as identification/authentication, for instance for the purpose of financial transactions such as payments, on the basis of the security and/or encoding.

10 29. Computer or a number of mutually coupled computers provided with memory space for storing the database and software for performing the method as claimed in one or more of the foregoing claims.

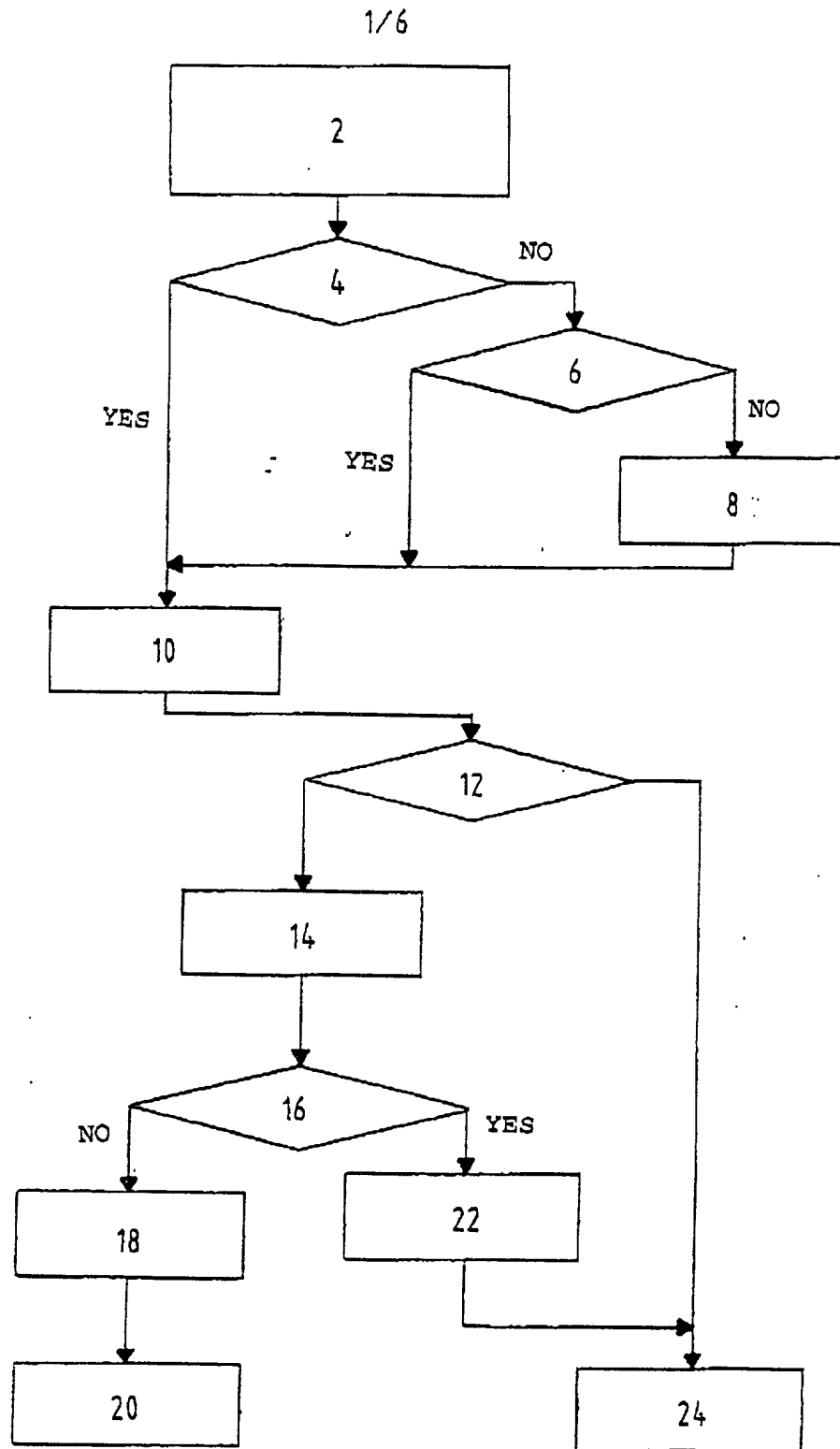
adadA3

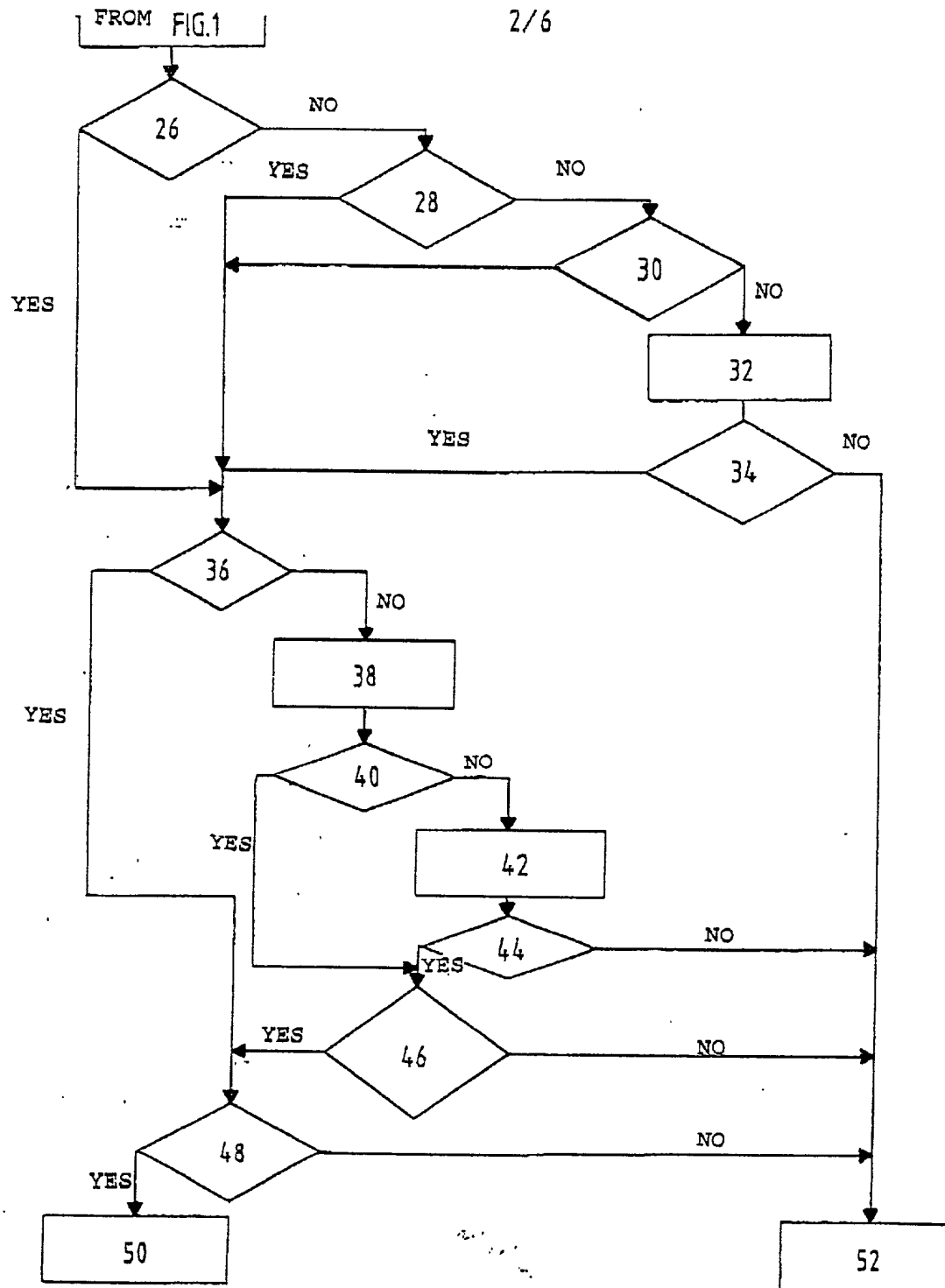
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ABSTRACT

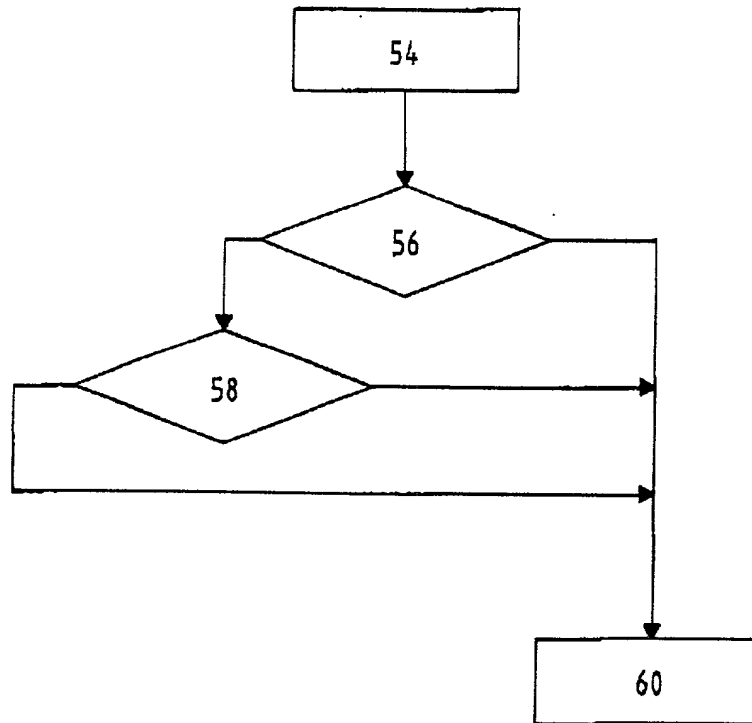
a
~~The present invention comprises~~ *Disclosed is* a method for
addressing a person or organisation via electronic means,
wherein the addresses of people and/or organisations are
stored in a database, wherein the addresses from the
5 database are linked to publicly accessible data such as
name, telephone numbers, fax number and/or postal codes,
and a method for processing and/or sending in electronic
manner one or more e-mail messages which are addressed
a ~~according to the method of claim 1 to one or more~~
IN 5 A3 ¹⁴³ ~~recipients.~~ ₁₀

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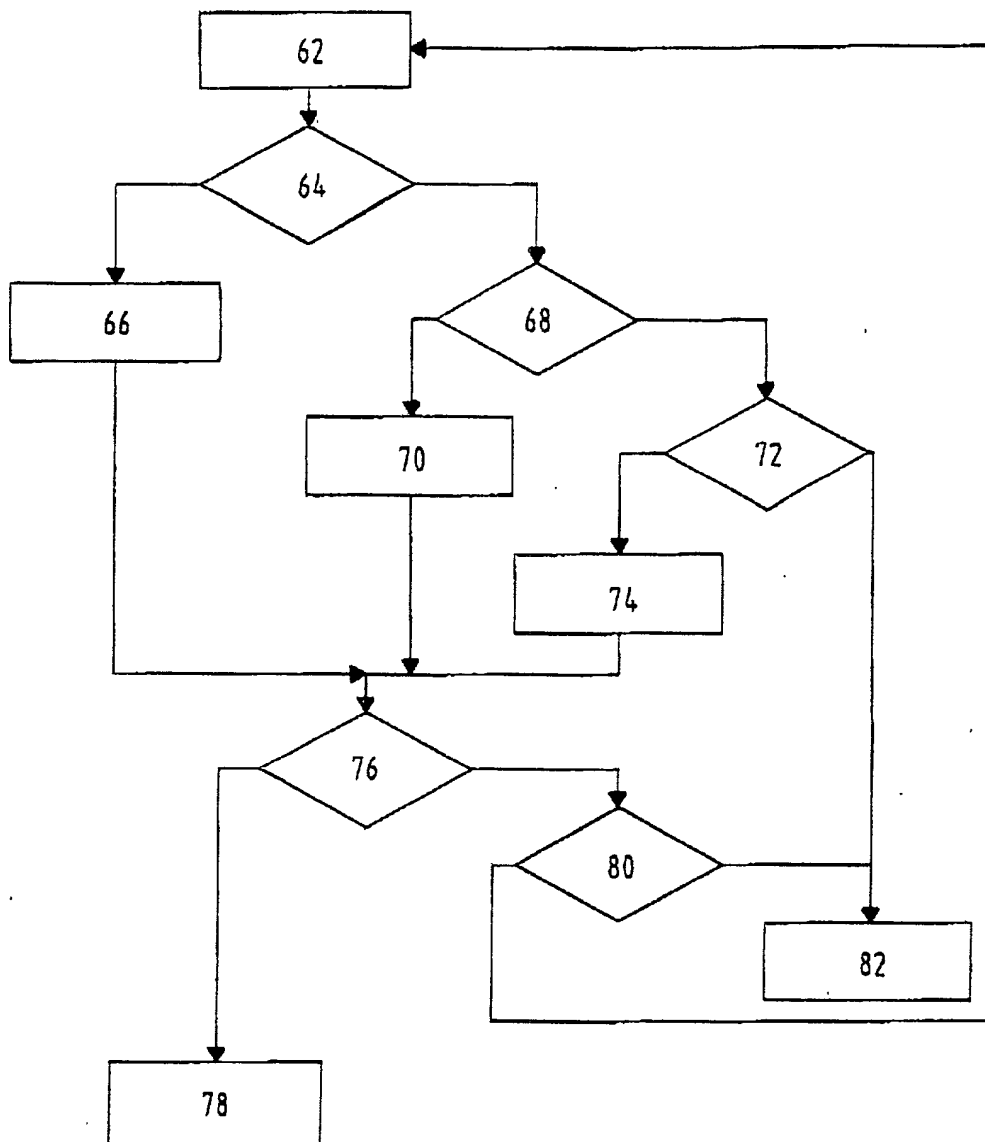
FIG. 1



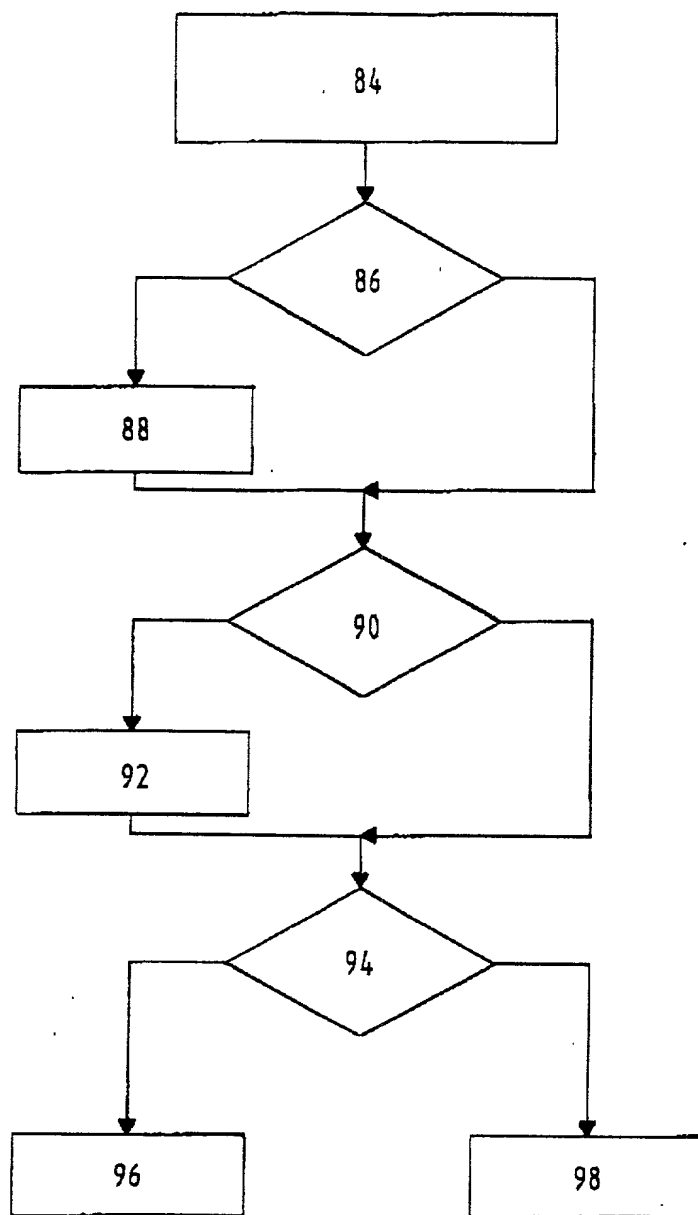
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FIG. 3

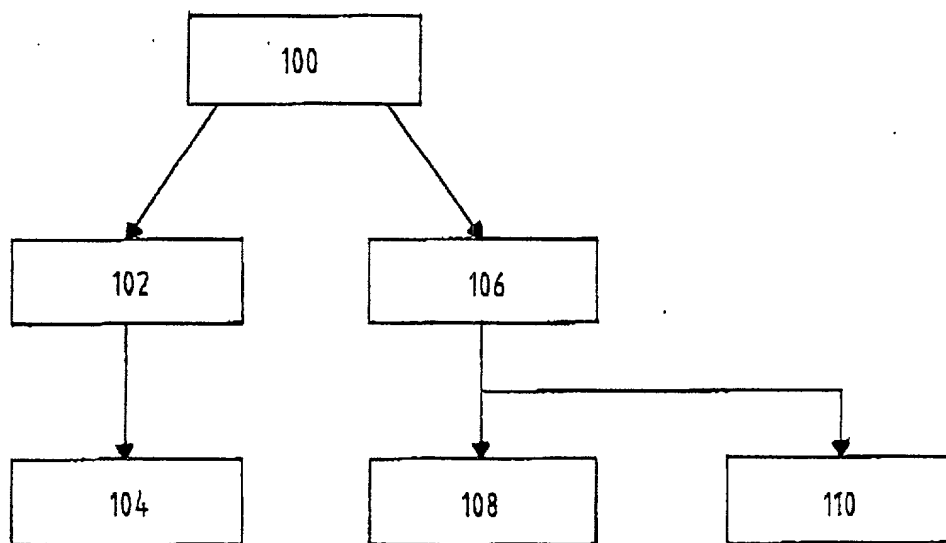
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FIG. 4

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FIG. 5

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FIG. 6

Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application

English Language Declaration

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that.

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

Method For Electronic Addressing Of A Person Or Organisation

the specification of which

(check one)

☐ is attached hereto.

☒ was received on 29 December 2000 as

Application Serial No. 09/720,770

and was amended on 29 December 2000
(if applicable)

☐ was filed as PCT international application

No. PCT/NL00/00902 on 06 December 2000

and was amended under PCT Article 19 on _____
(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s)			Priority Claimed	
<u>NL-1013759</u>	<u>The Netherlands</u>	<u>06 December 1999</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	Yes	No
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	Yes	No
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	Yes	No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)
(patented, pending, abandoned)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)
(patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. (list name and registration number)

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Second inventor's signature

Date

Residence

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Post Office Address

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors)